

New president named at Richard Bland College

From staff reports

Debbie L. Sydow has been named Richard Bland College's next president, effective July 1. Sydow, president of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, N.Y., will succeed James B. McNeer, who is retiring after 16 years as president of the junior college just south of Petersburg.

The board of visitors of the College of William and Mary announced her selection Wednesday. Richard Bland, with 1,600 students, is a branch of W&M and the state's only junior college.

Sydow has been president since 2000 of Onondaga, which has nearly 13,000 students and is one of the largest community colleges in the State University of New York system.

Sydow previously served at two Virginia community colleges. She was dean of humanities and social sciences at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands and was vice president of academic and student services at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, where she also was acting president from 1999 to 2000.

A native of Abingdon, Sydow received her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Virginia's College at Wise. She earned her master's degree from Marquette University and her doctorate from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.